

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Figurative languages can be found in almost any literary work – be it a novel, poetry, or drama. Two of the most common figurative languages are metaphor and simile (*Figure of speech*, 2020). Kennedy and Gioia (1995) define metaphor as a statement saying that a thing is something else, which in literal sense, it is not, and simile as a comparison of two things that is indicated by connectives, such as like, as, or resembles. Metaphor and simile seem quite similar since both metaphor and simile are figurative languages that involve comparison between two things. However, they are not the same. One of the differences between them is by looking at the use of markers or connectives in the comparison. Also, according to Pierini (2007), metaphors usually have stronger impact than similes since they have more power and suggestiveness.

Both simile and metaphor play an important role in everyday life. According to Kennedy and Gioia (1995), people tend to use similes and metaphors in everyday speech, but not aware of it. People tend to use metaphors and similes without they know it when they explain new concept, describe something, make a joke, compliment someone, or even insult someone. For example, a teacher might say that the earth is like a ball to explain the shape of the earth to his or her students, or someone might call his or her friend a sloth to tease them for being slow.

However, Pierini (2007) states that similes do not get as much interest and research as metaphors. Probably, it is because similes are seen to have less impact than metaphors. The truth is, although metaphors have bigger impact than similes, similes are still important. Pierini mentions that similes have a lot of functions. In teaching, similes are used as teaching aids to teach a new concept by comparing it to the concepts that students know. For instance, a teacher says that an atom is

like a tiny solar system. In advertisements, similes are used as hyperbolic statements to draw the interest of the buyers. For example, by saying that using a certain product will make the clothes as white as snow. In literature, similes are used for the aesthetic function, and they are usually used as a creative way of talking about something, such as, in Robert Burns' poem.

Since simile is used in literary works, it is also translated quite often. Translation here refers to an act of conveying the meaning from a language to another by changing the form (Larson, 1998). However, there are some things that can cause similes hard to understand in the target language. Larson (1998) mentions that there are 5 reasons why similes might be hard to understand in the target language. First, the target readers are not familiar with the vehicle used in the simile. Second, the topic is mentioned implicitly. Next, the similarity feature is not mentioned explicitly. Fourth, there is a difference in seeing the similarity feature in the simile. Last, the thing compared in the simile is not usually used as a comparison in the target language.

Simile would be meaningless if it is not translated correctly because it might be understood differently by the readers. For instance, in James Dashner's *The Maze Runner*, a simile "Alby's eyelids fluttered briefly as he continued; he looked like he could think of a thousand things he'd rather be doing right then" (2013, p. 43) becomes "*Alby mengerjapkan mata dengan cepat ketika dia melanjutkan; seolah banyak sekali hal yang akan diberitahukannya sekaligus*" (2017, p. 56) in the Indonesian version. Since there is a change in the simile, what is implied in the original and the translated version is different. The original simile implies that the boy wanted to do something else than what he is doing currently, while the translated version implies that the boy is excited to tell what he knows.

To help translators translate similes, a translation strategy is needed. Pierini (2007) mentions that there are 6 translation strategies to translate similes. The strategies are retention of the same vehicle, replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle, reduction of the simile to its sense if the simile is idiomatic,

retention of the same vehicle plus explicitation of the similarity feature, replacement of the vehicle with a gloss, and omission of the simile.

Although a simile is translated using a translation strategy, it does not mean that the quality of the translation is always good. Therefore, the quality of the translation still has to be checked. According to Barnwell (1980), there are 3 aspects to determine whether a translation has a good quality or not. The aspects are accuracy, clarity, and naturalness.

In order to know more about the use of translation strategies to translate similes and the quality of the translation, the writer decides to do a research about them. The similes used in the research are taken from James's Dashner *The Maze Runner*. It is the first book in the New York Times Bestselling series, *The Maze Runner*. Also, this book has won various awards, such as ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults in 2011, Young Reader's Choice Award, intermediate grades, in 2012, and has been adapted into a film with the same title (*Trivia*, 2015).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Knowing that there are a lot of factors that can cause similes hard to understand in the target language (Larson, 1998) and translation strategy is needed, the writer formulates the problem statements as follows:

1. What simile translation strategies are used to translate the similes in James Dashner's *The Maze Runner*
2. What are the qualities of the simile translations in James Dashner's *The Maze Runner*

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The research objectives of this research are to find out the answers of the problems stated in the problem statement. The objectives are as follows:

1. To find out what simile translation strategies are used to translate the similes in James Dashner's *The Maze Runner*

2. To find out what are the qualities of the simile translations in James Dashner's the Maze Runner

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The research focuses on finding out the translation strategy used to translate the similes found in James Dashner's "The Maze Runner" novel. The original novel used in this research is the one published in 2013 by Chicken House. For the Indonesian version, the novel used is the one published by Mizan Fantasy in 2017. This version of the novel is translated by Yunita Chandra. For the strategies, they are taken from Pierini's (2007) theory of simile translation strategies. There are 6 strategies. The strategies are retention of the same vehicle, replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle, reduction of the simile to its sense if the simile is idiomatic, retention of the same vehicle plus explicitation of the similarity feature, replacement of the vehicle with a gloss, and omission of the simile.

1.5 Theoretical Background

According to Larson (1998), translation is an act of conveying the meaning from a language to another by changing the form. The form here refers to the structure of the language. In translation, it is important that the meaning remains the same, even though the form changes.

In translation, there is always a problem, including in the translation of simile. There are several reasons that could be a problem in translating a simile (Larson, 1998). First, the target readers are not familiar with the vehicle used in the simile. Second, the topic is mentioned implicitly. Next, the similarity feature is not mentioned explicitly. Fourth, the difference in seeing the similarity feature in the simile. Last, the thing compared in the simile is not usually used as a comparison in the target language. To deal with these, translation strategies are needed. There are several strategies to translate a simile (Pierini, 2007). The strategies include literal translation (retention of the same vehicle), replacement of the vehicle with a different vehicle, reduction of the simile, if idiomatic, to its

sense, retention of the same vehicle plus explicitation of similarity feature(s), replacement of the vehicle with a gloss, and omission of the simile.

1.6 Significance of the Study

For the field of the study, this study is expected to fill the gap of knowledge since a study which analyzes simile translation in this particular novel has not yet been found. For translators, this study is expected to introduce what simile translation strategies are usually used to translate similes in a novel.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Here are the definitions of key terms used in the research:

1. Translation is an act of conveying the meaning from a language to another by changing the form (Larson, 1998).
2. Simile is a comparison of two things, and it is indicated by some connectives or markers, such as like, as, or resembles (Kennedy and Gioia, 1995).
3. SL refers to the language used in the original James Dashner's *The Maze Runner* novel, which is English
4. TL refers to Indonesian, the language used in the translated version of the novel.
5. The original novel refers to the original James Dashner's *The Maze Runner* novel. The one used by the author is the one published in 2013 by The Chicken House. The novel is a dystopian, young adult novel, and it is the first book of New York Times bestselling series, *The Maze Runner*.
6. The translated version is the Indonesian version of the novel translated by Yunita Chandra and published by Mizan Fantasi in 2017.

1.8 The Organization of the Thesis

The study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is about the introduction. The second chapter is about the review of related literature. The

third chapter is about the methodology. The fourth chapter is about the findings and discussion. The last chapter is about the conclusion and suggestion.